

Summer 2003

COM Outlook Summer 2003

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

COM Outlook

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Summer 2003

Volume 4, Number 3



Last Breath:

How Doctors Deal with Death

When it comes to dealing with terminally ill patients, how do physicians like Dr. Charlotte Paolini navigate the treacherous emotional obstacle course? Find out on page 25.





Morton Terry, D.O., M.Sc., FACOI
Chancellor

Health Professions Division Executive Administration

Communiqué



Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

On May 25, 2003, the Health Professions Division hosted another memorable graduation ceremony. Over 6,000 family and friends were in attendance as NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., conferred degrees upon 495 graduating students.

Our keynote speaker, Franklin L. Till, Jr. Ed.D., superintendent of Broward County Schools, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Pedagogy degree. The College of Osteopathic Medicine awarded 177 Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degrees. Furthermore, five of the students also received concurrent M.P.H. degrees, while one student received a concurrent M.B.A. degree. This year's graduates have accepted internships/residencies at hospitals and universities throughout the country.

The list includes: Broward General Medical Center, Columbia Hospital, Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Brook Army Medical Center, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Naval Medical Center, Miami Children's Hospital, Palmetto General Hospital, Miami Heart Institute, Mount Sinai Medical Center, Sun Coast Hospital, and White Memorial Hospital.

The executive administration is extremely proud of our newest physicians and congratulates the entire faculty and NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine administration for their innovative and rigorous curriculum.

The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program recently held its nationally recognized AHEC Health Careers Camp. Over 100 predominantly rural and minority students from throughout our South and Central Florida service areas participated in this most important initiative. Dr. Steven Zucker, associate dean for community affairs, and his staff invest a tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm into this highly acclaimed program. It is gratifying to see the students' excitement and interest in pursuing a future in the health professions, and then bringing that training back to the underserved communities from which they come.

The establishment of NSU's Division of Clinical Operations, under the direction of Robert Oller, D.O., has created a vehicle by which we can coordinate clinical services, optimize patient referrals, and increase teaching opportunities. Meetings between NSU's 10 clinical colleges and programs have led to published lectures by various disciplines, with invitations extended to all clinical programs that may have an interest in taking part in grand-round discussions or attending formal lectures.

For those of you who have taken some much deserved vacation time, we wish you a wonderful summer. For the rest of us, we are here, hard at work, implementing the planning for a fall semester that we anticipate will be challenging, productive, and most importantly, produce the finest trained health professionals in this country.

Morton Terry, D.O.

Fred Lippman

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Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni Reflects on Five years of Accomplishment - 18

Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni may be a true forward thinker in every conceivable way, but not even he could have foreseen the tremendous growth and myriad enhancements that have occurred since he became dean of NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine in July 1998.

Dr. Myint Myint Aye Finds Fulfillment at NSU-COM - 21

When Dr. Myint Myint Aye initially relocated to the United States from Burma in 1992 following her "retirement" from a distinguished and rewarding 30-year medical career, she had no idea a rewarding new career chapter at NSU-COM was looming in her future.

Last Breath: How Doctors Deal with Death - 25

In this thought-provoking article, Drs. Charlotte Paolini, Gary Hill, and Kenneth Johnson discuss how they navigate the treacherous emotional obstacle course when it comes to dealing with mortally ill patients.

Class of 2003 Earns Accolades at Graduation Dinner Dance - 32

The best and brightest of the class of 2003 were honored in May at a festive pre-graduation awards ceremony.

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News Briefs...News Briefs

In May, the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice was restructured to include the

Division of Sports Medicine

Chair: Elaine M. Wallace, D.O.

Division of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

Chair: Mark Sandhouse, D.O.

Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Chair: Ron Tolchin, D.O.

Dr. Wallace and Michael M. Patterson, Ph.D., will continue to function as chair and vice chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice.



Marin Dawson-Caswell

The pediatric poster presentation made by M-3 student Marin Dawson-Caswell titled "Atypical Kawasaki's Disease: A Unique Case Presentation" during the college's inaugural poster session last February was chosen as the representative poster from NSU-COM to be

presented at the 108th Annual AOA Convention and Scientific Seminar in October. Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, served as faculty advisor to Dawson-Caswell during the project's preparation.



On June 6, Florida Representative Irv Slosberg and his legislative staff visited NSU to meet with leadership from the Health Professions Division and the AHEC Program. Representative Slosberg, who serves various areas in Broward and Palm Beach, toured the HPD campus and gained valuable insight about the vital services provided through the AHEC Program. Pictured (from left) are: Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., HPD executive vice chancellor and provost; Linda Chase, constituent; Representative Slosberg; Rosebud Foster, Ed.D., special assistant to the executive vice chancellor and provost; Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., associate dean for community affairs and AHEC Program director; and Desiree Morel, legislative assistant.



In April, the college coordinated its annual strategic retreat, which provides faculty and administration with an opportunity to interact, exchange

ideas, and discuss a range of topics such as ways to enhance faculty and staff job satisfaction and improve the evaluation process of students and residents in the clinical training years. Other initiatives addressed included ways to provide additional infrastructure for research and scholarly activity, methods to balance clinical, academic, and research duties, and techniques to enhance the status of the college in the health care community and the community at large.



On April 5, a number of NSU-COM Neuro-Psych Club members participated in the American Parkinson's Disease Association's Picking Up the Pace: Walk Against Parkinson's to raise money for the organization. H. Murray Todd, M.D., who serves as a clinical assistant professor of neurology and Neuro-Psych Club faculty advisor, also participated in the fundraising walk.



On Sunday, June 1, NSU-COM held its inaugural Standardized Patient Program Appreciation Day, which was hosted at the home of Loretta Graham, Ph.D., who serves as the college's medical education specialist, and her husband David Frees. The event, which featured a barbeque/pool party format, served as a fitting way to thank the standardized patients, who play a pivotal role in educating the future generation of osteopathic physicians. During the festivities, Dr. Graham (left) and Ronnie Martin, D.O., professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, presented certificates of appreciation to the standardized patients, including Audrey Gross (center).

News Briefs...News Briefs



Albert Whitehead, D.M.D.

Thanks to the efforts of Albert Whitehead, D.M.D., M.Ed., M.B.A., who serves as director of student and administrative services, a number of NSU-COM students will be benefiting from a trio of loan/scholarship opportunities. The College of Osteopathic Medicine

received \$334,227 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the following categories:

- \$108,116 - Primary Care Loan (PCL)
- \$108,949 - Loan for Disadvantaged Students (LDS)
- \$117,162 - Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students (SDS)

The PCL is designated for students who are going into primary care upon graduation and provides a low-interest loan. The LDS is for students who meet specific criteria pertaining to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, while the SDS is a scholarship program that benefits students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Dr. Whitehead was also instrumental in securing similar funding for all the Health Professions Division colleges, including a \$727,546 Health Professional Student Loan/PCL and a \$261,122 LDS.

The Broward County Osteopathic Medical Association has established a short-term emergency loan fund for NSU-COM students. The loan amount will be limited to a maximum \$500 and is restricted to one loan per student per semester. The loan is interest-free, but an origination fee of \$10 will be charged to cover administrative costs. The loan will be for a maximum period of 60 days; however, students will not be eligible during the 90-day period immediately prior to graduation. This loan is not based on financial need but on the student's perception of short-term need (e.g., unexpected auto repairs, urgent medical expenses, unforeseen living expenses). Students wishing to apply for the loan will be required to complete an application and promissory note in the Office for Student and Administrative Services. For additional information, please contact Dr. Ronnie Martin at martinro@nova.edu.



On March 27, a number of NSU-COM students and members of the Sports Medicine Club had an opportunity to tour the Miami Dolphins Training Center—which is housed on the NSU campus—and attend a sports-injury taping demonstration provided by Troy Maurer, assistant trainer for the team.



Briana Cohen (left) and Rebecca Kopelman model their complimentary Marlins' jerseys, which were given to the first 7,500 young fans who attended the game.

Sunday, June 8 proved to be a fun-filled day for the 32 Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum (IGC) preceptors and their guests who joined NSU-COM faculty at Pro Player Stadium to participate in IGC

Physician Mentor Appreciation Day. The event, which afforded attendees a chance to watch the Florida Marlins play the Anaheim Angels in style, included a pregame NSU-COM hospitality suite and club-level seating behind home base.

"It is so gratifying to get to show our appreciation and spend quality time with this group of dedicated mentors who volunteer their time and always have the best interests of our future physicians at heart," said Debbi Steinkohl, M.H.S.A., who serves as administrative director of the IGC Program. Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., associate dean for community affairs and AHEC Program director, agreed with Steinkohl's assessment, adding, "This is just a small way to thank the community-based preceptors who have such a positive impact on the first- and second-year students, who will hopefully pursue careers in primary care and work as advocates for a growing population of patients with limited access to health care."

Steinkohl stated that IGC Appreciation Day will be remembered for the overwhelming collegiality between NSU faculty and the many physician mentors like Dr. Ronald Molluzzo who "simply want to give something back to their profession."

Dr. Daniel Shaw Receives Cancer Research Grant



Dr. Shaw (right) receives his award from Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., associate dean of education, planning, and research.

Daniel Shaw Ph.D., associate professor of behavioral medicine, was the worthy recipient of the Third Annual Kenyon Primary Care Cancer Research Award. The endowment, which is funded through the proceeds of a trust bestowed to NSU-COM by the late Franklin Kenyon and Francis Kenyon Angeski, allows NSU-COM faculty to pursue vital cancer research in the primary care discipline.

The award is for a 12-month period commencing July 1, 2003, and includes a grant for \$12,000, an engraved plaque received by the grantee, and the inclusion of Dr. Shaw's name on a permanent plaque kept on display at the college. Dr. Shaw's winning proposal focuses on the development and evaluation of a computer-assisted training program for faculty and students in the area of end-of-life care for

terminally ill cancer patients.

(Note: Since receiving the Kenyon Primary Care Cancer Research endowment, Dr. Shaw has left NSU-COM to accept a position at the Medical School of Georgia.)

Students Showcase Community Service Spirit



Pictured (clockwise from left) are: Almari Ginory (M-1); Lynita Mullins (M-1); Javier Romero, host of Sabado Gigante television show; Aysen Earlywine (M-1); Zulma Martinez, community volunteer; Olga Martinez (M-1), and Marisabel Bravo (M-1).

The NSU-COM student chapters of DOCARE and the Hispanic Osteopathic Medical Student Association (HOMSA) showcased their humanitarian spirit on April 26 when they participated in the *Relevo por la Vida* (Relay for Life), which was sponsored by the American Cancer Society Division of Hispanic Affairs and held at the Orange Bowl in Miami. The purpose of the event, which was free of charge to the approximately 3,000 attendees, was to reach out and create both health and cancer awareness among the ever-growing Hispanic community in South Florida.

The event consisted of a health fair complete with screenings and information as well as a relay for life race. NSU-COM's DOCARE and HOMSA students, along with Camille Bentley, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine, were on hand to provide blood pressure, BMI, blood glucose, and cholesterol screenings. In

addition to the health screenings, attendees also obtained information in Spanish about osteopathic medicine, lifestyle modifications, and diet information based on the Latin cuisine.

"I feel very fortunate to have participated in this event, which truly reaches out and positively impacts the Hispanic community of South Florida," said M-1 student Olga Martinez, who serves as the college's DOCARE president and HOMSA public relations/community affairs chair. "I think it also gives our profession great exposure and allows us, as students, to advocate osteopathic medicine while simultaneously providing health services to a community that often lacks health care access for various reasons."

"It was very exciting to provide health screenings to a population that cannot afford any other type of health care," said M-1 HOMSA member Aysen Earlywine. "If we had not told those people they had high blood pressure or cholesterol problems, they would have never known. Being Latin myself, I can understand their poor health care choices from a cultural perspective and counsel them on a more personal level."

Geriatrics Assignment Blossoms into Labor of Love



Dr. Silvagni poses with M-2 student Shirley Chen, who served as the book's editor in chief, and Dr. Paolini.

During their winter semester geriatrics course, the M-2 class was handed a challenging assignment: to respond to a real-life scenario about an older adult that described a medical, social, emotional, and/or ethical dilemma the patient was facing. Students were asked to submit a one-page essay—as triggered by their “real-life” scenario—that reflected their thinking, understanding, and self-directed study.

“The goal of the course was to give students the opportunity to be creative, original, and thoughtful while increasing their knowledge and understanding of some of the realities faced by older adults in this country,” said Charlotte Paolini, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine who serves as the

geriatrics course director.

The assignment proved so successful that the 15 essays deemed most poignant and thought provoking by the students were compiled into a soft-cover book entitled *Through Our Eyes: Medical Students' Reflections on Aging and Older Adults*.

Osteopathic Medicine Day in Tallahassee

Chelsea Jerry, M-2 Student



NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine was well represented at FOMA's Ninth Annual Osteopathic Medicine Day.

On April 2, the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) sponsored the Ninth Annual Osteopathic Medicine Day in Tallahassee, which included participation by 11 NSU-COM students as well as osteopathic physicians from throughout the state. The festivities commenced on Tuesday, April 1 at the University Club with a dinner and reception overlooking the FSU football stadium. Several distinguished legislators were in attendance to show their support for osteopathic medicine and FOMA's key legislative issues.

Before sunrise the next morning, NSU-COM students and several osteopathic physicians set off for a legislative awards breakfast on the 22nd floor of the Capitol. Key legislators

who have supported health care reform—particularly medical malpractice reform—were praised and given plaques of appreciation. Participants then met Senate President Jim King briefly before entering the House Chambers, where students got the chance to speak with Secretary of State Glenda Hood and Speaker of the House Johnnie Byrd. FOMA Executive Director Steve Winn presented Speaker Byrd with FOMA's Legislator of the Year Award in recognition of his immense support on medical malpractice reform. Attendees also had the opportunity to meet Attorney General Charlie Crist and observe the Senate in session.

After an exciting afternoon, everyone returned to the 22nd floor of the Capitol for lunch and a stimulating presentation by Karen Moore, President of the Moore Consulting Group that leads the Coalition to Ensure Patient Access on engaging legislators and influencing policymakers. This important event, which informs Florida's lawmakers and policymakers regarding issues concerning the osteopathic profession, also gives students and osteopathic physicians the ability to witness how policymaking actually occurs in the Capitol.

Eight Students Earn Burnell Research Awards

In May, eight NSU-COM students were presented with Dr. S. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Awards, which were created in December 2000 when Dr. Burnell donated \$50,000 to NSU-COM as an endowment to provide awards for student research protocols in both clinical medicine and biomedical science. The students received commemorative trophies as well as a cash award derived from the endowment established by Dr. Burnell.

Following are the awardees and the faculty advisors who worked with the students on their award-winning research protocols:

The Effects of Unplanned Pregnancies on Maternal and Child Health in Jamaica

Student Researcher

Meredith K. Szpunar

Faculty Advisor

Kenneth Johnson, D.O.

A Comparison of Sexually Transmitted Diseases Between Medically Indigent Urban and Rural Jamaican Communities: A Pilot Study

Student Researchers

Seth Politano and Tirdad Zangeneh

Faculty Advisors

Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., M.P.H., Jon Dodds, Ph.D., and Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D.

Role of Acetyl CoA Carboxylase in the Production of Malonyl CoA, Hunger Signal, that Controls Neuropeptide Y Synthesis in the Brain

Student Researchers

John Coppola and Karthik Krishnamurthy

Faculty Advisor

K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D.

Role of 3' Phosphoadenosine 5' - Phosphosulfate (PAPS) Synthase in Relation to Spondyloepimetaphyseal Dysplasia (SEMD)

Student Researchers

Brian Cilley, Holly Skinner, and Adam Sterlace

Faculty Advisor

K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D.



Pictured with Dr. Burnell (second from left) are Drs. Hardigan, Venkatachalam, Levy, Anderson-Worts, and Johnson.



Meredith Szpunar and Kenneth Johnson, D.O.



Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., Tirdad Zangeneh, Seth Politano, and Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D.



Karthik Krishnamurthy, K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D., and John Coppola.



Adam Sterlace, K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D., and Holly Skinner.

Jerry, Luckey Honored with Matthew Terry Scholarships



Chelsea Jerry gratefully accepts her award from Morton Terry, D.O., chancellor, Health Professions Division.

On March 17, Lisa Luckey (M-1) and Chelsea Jerry (M-2) joined a distinguished group of previous winners when they were selected as recipients of the 2003 Matthew A. Terry, D.O., Scholarship Endowment.

The academic accolade, which is accompanied by a \$500 cash award, was established in 1999 to honor first- and second-year medical students who epitomize virtues such as scholastic excellence, service to the school, empathy, and congeniality.

The Matthew A. Terry, D.O., Scholarship Endowment, which was the brainchild of the Department of Family Medicine, serves as a fitting tribute to students who embody the true spirit of an osteopathic practitioner.



Lisa Luckey receives her award from Chancellor Terry.

Steinkohl, North Broward Hospital District Snare Stuey Statuettes

It proved to be a golden night for Debbi Steinkohl, M.H.S.A., and the North Broward Hospital District at the Fourth Annual NSU Student Life Achievement Awards as each walked away with a coveted Stuey statuette. The April 15 ceremony, which was held at NSU's Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center, served as a celebration of NSU's best in leadership, scholarship, service, integrity, commitment, involvement, and responsibility.

Steinkohl, who acts as administrative director of the Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum (IGC) Program, was honored as Co-curricular Advisor of the Year for her work with NSU-COM's student chapter of the American Medical Student Association. The North Broward Hospital District was recognized as NSU's Corporate Partner of the Year for providing an array of clinical training opportunities at its four Broward County-based hospitals.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine earned seven overall nominations in the Student Life Achievement Award balloting, including nods for Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., as Academic Dean of the Year, the American Medical Student Association as Graduate Organization of the Year, and Joel Rush, D.O., as NSU Alumnus of the Year.



Debbi Steinkohl poses with her Stuey Award. Bob Burton, senior vice president and chief administrative officer of the North Broward Hospital District (left), accepts the Corporate Partner of the Year accolade from NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.

NSU-COM Receives Infectious Disease Grant



Leonard Levy, D.P.M.

An application authored by Leonard A. Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., professor and associate dean for education, planning, and research, which is designed to develop problem-based learning (PBL) modules in infectious disease, was recently approved and funded by the U.S. Public Health Service, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

The three-year, \$456,000 HRSA grant will allow the college to plan, develop, and implement nine PBL modules and evaluate the students through the use of Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) that employ standardized patients. Joel Spalter, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, will serve as project director of the program.

Additionally, because the project is primary care oriented in scope, Ronnie Martin, D.O., FACOF, professor and chair of family medicine, will be working with Dr. Spalter.

This is the second HRSA grant received by the college this year that was written by Dr. Levy, resulting in a total of \$934,000 in key funding. The first grant received by the college in 2003 was for the establishment of a pediatrics residency-training program at Palms West Hospital.

Students Promulgate Obesity Health Risk Message



Pictured (from left): Debbi Steinkohl; Rosebud Foster, special assistant to the executive vice chancellor and provost; Nadia Govanlu-Pearson; and Jessie Legros.

The Public Health Student Association (PHSA) was busy in April spreading a vital message about the health risks associated with the growing obesity epidemic. Thanks to the efforts of Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, M.H.S.A., administrative director of the IGC Program, and Jessie Legros, M.P.H., HETC statewide administrator, several activities were conducted as part of the American Public Health Association's (APHA) annual observance of National Public Health Week.

Public health students helped the APHA achieve its goal of presenting communities and individuals with creative ways to "shape up their future" by coordinating a range of activities that focused on increasing awareness within the Health Professions Division campus community of the health risks associated with obesity and being overweight.

The NSU Office of Recreation and Wellness offered its support by providing body-fat content analyses, distributing fast-food nutrition guides, and educating the HPD community about the various wellness programs offered at NSU. The college's PHSA, spearheaded by M-2 student Nadia Govanlu-Pearson, did its part to impart education in an entertaining way by providing a *Wheel of Fortune*-style nutrition and fitness game.

However, the highlight of the weeklong celebration occurred at the signing of a National Public Health Week official proclamation by Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., who serves as executive vice chancellor and provost of the Health Professions Division. "The future looks promising when our public health students take a leadership role in helping to promote healthy lifestyles right here in our own academic environment," said Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H., FACOF, who serves as director of NSU-COM's Master of Public Health Program.

In an informal brainstorming session on what special projects could be undertaken on campus for next year's National Public Health Week observance, there was enthusiastic discussion about a popular national trend that promotes stair walking as an alternative to taking the elevator. "I can just imagine a publicized slogan such as "Don't Elevate Laziness...Try the Stairs," Steinkohl joked. "I guess I'll have to rethink my choice of footwear if I'm going to walk the walk."

Students, Faculty Debate Universal Health Care

By Chelsea Jerry, M-2 Student and Debate Moderator

On May 14, the NSU-COM American Medical Student Association (AMSA) chapter hosted a debate in the HPD Private Dining Room on the pros and cons of adopting a universal health care system in the United States. “Pro” participants included Ronnie Martin, D.O., FACP, professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, and M-1 student Jason Diamond. “Con” participants included Kenneth Johnson, D.O., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and M-2 student Daniel McGee.

The “con” contingent contended that a health care system for all Americans was currently in place and negated the need for a federally mandated system. The con participants also argued that a universal healthcare system—similar to that of Switzerland and Japan—would never work in a country like the United States. The “pro” panelists claimed there are over 40 million uninsured Americans, 80 percent of whom are working individuals, not to mention the other millions that are “uninsured” without adequate insurance.

Both sides, however, agreed the U.S. healthcare system—universal or not—should focus more on prevention to avoid the reliance on emergency services and prevent the development of chronic conditions like heart disease, obesity, and diabetes. At the debate’s conclusion, audience members posed questions to panelists to further clarify their positions.

Lifesaving Techniques on Display at CPR Day



Lifesaving training at CPR Day.

On April 26, volunteers from around Florida gathered at NSU’s Health Professions Division to train over 600 people in the lifesaving technique of cardiopulmonary

resuscitation at the Fifth Annual CPR Day. Throughout the day, participants were trained in CPR and in the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machine.

Medical students as well as physician assistant student members of NSU-COM’s Emergency Medicine Society also provided blood pressure and stroke screenings for over 300 attendees at CPR Day, which is a joint effort between the American Heart Association and the Florida College of Emergency Physicians.

The purpose of the event is to reduce the number of lives lost from cardiac death by educating people about the Chain of Survival—the four-step process of providing treatment to victims of sudden cardiac death. Over the past four years, nearly 18,000 event participants have been trained as “Heartsavers” at this statewide event.

NSU-COM Nabs Three Communication Awards



Scott Colton

In June, NSU-COM received three prestigious honors in the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) Communications Awards Competition. Scott Colton, who serves as director of education communications, captured

first place in the Best Article or Feature Story category for his article entitled “Examining the Future of Osteopathic Medicine.”

The college’s promotional CD, which is used as both a recruitment and public relations tool, earned first-place honors in the Best Multimedia or New Media Program. NSU-COM students also earned recognition for creating the Pre-Doc Program, which educates high-school students about basic medical procedures and introduces them to the principles that distinguish osteopathic medicine from its allopathic counterpart. The Pre-Doc Program earned first-place accolades in the Best Public Education Program category.

AACOM represents each of the nation’s 20 colleges of osteopathic medicine and serves the administration, faculty, and students of osteopathic medical schools.

Medical Students Discuss Evils of Tobacco at Broward Public Schools



M-1 students Olga Martinez, Danielle DeGennaro, and Duane Tippetts discuss the evils of tobacco use with a rapt audience at Rickards Middle School.

In April and May, NSU-COM's Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program coordinated the Third Annual Tobacco Cessation/Prevention Project, which was offered to all M-1 students and expanded in 2003 to include second-year pharmacy students. Through this initiative, students gain preventative health training by utilizing a variety of modalities, including group instructional technology in patient-oriented problem solving modules.

During the project, student physicians and second-year pharmacy students meet in small groups to discuss tobacco usage, the pharmacology of smoking, dependence/addiction, smoking prevention, and cessation techniques.

Following their training, the students visited various Broward County middle and high schools to provide vital tobacco prevention education. During these daylong education excursions, NSU-COM and College of Pharmacy students provided nearly 15,000 middle- and high-school

students at 70 public schools throughout Broward County with valuable information geared to encourage them to avoid or stop using tobacco.

Since its inception at NSU in 2001, the program has reached nearly 35,000

middle- and high-school students.

Response to the program was uniformly positive, a fact illustrated by the dozens of letters and posters the AHEC Program received in the weeks following the middle- and high-school visits. Tobacco education day is part of a required 12-hour course that was instituted by the college in 2001. The course is designed to help future physicians and pharmacists identify ways to prevent harmful health effects resulting from the use of tobacco products.

M-1 student Olga Martinez, a graduate of Rickards Middle School in Oakland Park, Florida, had the additional pleasure of returning to her alma mater with two other M-1 students to speak about the dangers of smoking. "I asked if I could be sent to Rickards because I attended school there and felt I could relate to the students," said Martinez. "I truly enjoyed returning to Rickards to promote this important message."

Cigarette smoking is widely recognized as one of the leading causes of preventable deaths in the world and is estimated to contribute to approximately 430,000 deaths in the U.S. each year. In Florida alone, where an estimated 2.5 million adults and 350,000 teens use tobacco products, the public health cost attributed to tobacco are enormous.

To address this pressing issue, NSU-COM's nationally recognized AHEC Program has collaborated with the AHEC programs of Florida's four other medical schools to develop and adopt tobacco cessation and prevention education as an integral part of the medical school curriculum.

Fast Fact

In 2001, the Florida AHEC Network, which comprises the five medical schools in Florida, partnered with the Florida Department of Health to initiate the Tobacco Cessation Project, which has involved over 80 faculty and staff from over a dozen AHEC-affiliated health professions colleges and programs. To date, this program has trained over 3,300 health professions students who gave nearly 3,900 classroom presentations to approximately 122,000 middle- and high-school students in over 130 middle and high schools located in 20 Florida counties.



Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., and Loretta Graham, Ph.D., served as facilitators during the small-group sessions.

Rural Retreat Emphasizes Education, Enjoyment



The success of the AHEC Rural Retreat was ensured by the coordination efforts of (from left): Johneta Goodwin, executive assistant to the dean; Sherri Martin, coordinator of grants and special projects; Robert Perraud, D.O., director, Department of Rural Medicine; Scott Colton, director of education communications; and James Howell, M.D., chair, Department of Rural Medicine.

On June 13-15, approximately 60 physicians made the annual pilgrimage to the AHEC Rural Medicine Retreat, which was held at the Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort and Marina in Stuart, Florida.

The retreat, which helps extend academic resources to rural safety net sites within AHEC's 19-county service area, brings NSU-COM faculty together with primary care physicians from community health centers to provide continuing education on vital public health issues.

The retreat provides attendees with a relaxed, informal setting in which to explore ways of addressing primary care workforce needs in medically needy communities throughout South and Central Florida. It also serves as a fitting way to thank the numerous statewide preceptors who take time out of their busy schedules to work with NSU-COM students during their mandatory three-month clinical rotations in rural medicine.

Several topical issues were discussed at this year's retreat, including

- Metabolic Syndrome: From Birth to Death
- Terrorism and Rural Health: Preparing for Terrorism in Your Community

"My colleagues and I have found these AHEC retreats to be a wonderful means of building camaraderie among those of us who practice in rural sites," said Betty Baker, D.O., who works at the Palm Beach County Health Department/C.L. Brumback Community Health Center in Belle Glade. "The workshops are always extremely informative and helpful in keeping us up-to-date with critical patient care and public health issues in our rapidly changing health care field."

Team Effort Ensures Health Fair's Success



Health fair attendees take advantage of the variety of services available at the FOMA-sponsored event.

Collaboration was clearly the key to ensuring success at the Third Annual NSU Health Fair, which was held Saturday, May 10 at the Tower Shops/Home Depot Plaza in Davie and sponsored by the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) and NSU's Health Professions Division.

The daylong health fair proved to be an unqualified success, thanks primarily to the coordination efforts of M-4 student Christopher Siano, who rallied on-site support and assistance from the other HPD colleges for the third consecutive year.

Over a dozen information booths and screening stations were set up to accommodate the 400 or so health-conscious attendees, who were able to receive free blood pressure and diabetes screenings and take advantage of complimentary vision and dental exams.

Information areas, which were manned by students and licensed/registered health professionals, included osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, occupational/physical therapy, optometry, dental, psychology, public health, pediatrics, and geriatrics.

Donation Brings Joy to COM²Serve Clinic



Pictured (from left) are Kevin Encarnacion (M-1), Sandy Lozano, clinic director and nurse practitioner, Aysen Earlywine (M-1), Juanita Diaz, medical assistant, Olga Martinez (M-1), and Noelle Barrera (M-1).

On May 29, members from NSU-COM's Hispanic Osteopathic Medical Student Association (HOMSA) visited the Fort Lauderdale-based Clinica Luz del Mundo

(Light of the World Clinic) to donate three sets of WelchAllyn ophthalmoscope and otoscope headsets. In 2002, HOMSA members adopted the clinic—which serves as one of the college's IGC and COM²Serve sites—and vowed to assist the patients by volunteering whenever possible and procuring needed equipment.

Students Celebrate at Commencement Ceremony



For the 177 College of Osteopathic Medicine graduates, camaraderie and celebration ruled at the 2003 commencement ceremony.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine awarded a record 177 D.O. degrees during the NSU Health Professions Division Commencement Ceremony, held

May 25 at the Office Depot Center in Sunrise, Florida.

Graduates received their diplomas from NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., and HPD Chancellor Morton Terry, D.O., in front of an enthusiastic audience of 6,000 comprising family, friends, and faculty. Franklin L. Till, Jr., Ed.D., superintendent of Broward County Schools, delivered the commencement address. In addition to conferring 177 D.O. degrees, the College of Osteopathic Medicine presented five students with dual M.P.H. degrees and one student with a dual M.B.A. degree.

Graduating Residents Rate Recognition



Residents of the Year Asfa Akhtar, D.O., and Robert Norris, D.O.

On June 20, NSU-COM coordinated its annual Family Medicine and Dermatology Residency Program Graduation Dinner Dance, which honored the accomplishments of 27 hardworking individuals who successfully completed their residencies at Palmetto General Hospital,

the North Broward Hospital District, and several other sites.

During the evening's festivities, Robert Norris, D.O., was presented with the Outstanding Resident of the Year Award for his work at the North Broward Hospital District. Asfa Akhtar, D.O., was the deserving recipient of the Palmetto General Hospital Outstanding Resident of the Year Award. Following are the class of 2003 graduating residents:

Palmetto General Hospital Family Medicine Residents

Asfa Simin Akhtar, D.O. Robert Chaskes, D.O.
Felix Fernandez, D.O. (chief resident)
Maribeth Gidley, D.O. Javier A. González, D.O.
Darin Miller, D.O. Michele Scheck, D.O.
Joshua Zvi Steiner, D.O.

NBHD Family Medicine Residents

West-Ky Abrams, D.O. Tasha Bielby, D.O.
Christine Ceravolo Chapman, D.O.
Chad Erik Frank, D.O.
Neha Pravin Ghael, D.O. Theresa Keller Goebel, D.O.
Stephen Phillip Keller, D.O. Robert J. Norris, D.O.
Matthew Gennaro Pinto, D.O. (chief resident)
Keith Martin Rubin, D.O. Mildred J. Santorufo, D.O.
Krista Mara Zivkovic, D.O. (chief resident)

Dermatology

Matthew Brent Doppelt, D.O. (chief resident)
Peter A. Vitulli, Jr., D.O.

Preventive Medicine

Consuelo Maggi, M.D. Jesse Singer, D.O.
Christopher Perkins, D.O., M.P.H. (chief resident)

Physician Assistant

Sherry Barnhardt, PA-C
Jennifer Becker, PA-C

Faculty Focus...Faculty Focus



Alina Perez, J.D.

In March, Alina Perez, J.D., assistant professor of public health, participated as a roundtable moderator at the Eleventh Annual UM Conference, which was held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and attended by more than 300 members of the health care profession. She also served as a guest lecturer for the College of the Bahamas, School of Social Work on "Ethical and Legal Issues for the Social Work Profession" and was invited to be a panelist at the CDC 37th National Immunization Conference in Chicago, Illinois, where she discussed "An Introduction to the Concept of Ethics for Public Health Professionals."



Lauritz "Larry" Jensen, D.A.

In April, the class of 2005 presented Lauritz "Larry" Jensen, D.A., director of pre-clinical education, with a plaque honoring him for his "dedication, commitment, and service to the students of Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine." Dr. Jensen, who serves as chair of the college's International Medicine Committee, also played a pivotal role in ensuring two successful medical missions to Guatemala in 2003.



Eric Shamus, Ph.D.

NSU-COM was prominently featured at the BioTech 2003 Conference, which was held in March at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. Two poster presentations were developed by an array of faculty and students: The Effects of Cranial Manipulation on Visual Function: A Pilot Study, and Motion and Force Analysis with Osteopathic Treatment. Mark Sandhouse, D.O, M-3 student Joanna Greenblatt, Michael Patterson, Ph.D., and Arthur Snyder, D.O, produced the cranial manipulation poster. The motion and force poster was created by Elaine Wallace, D.O., OPP research assistant Khalil Carter, Eric Shamus, Ph.D., and Dr. Patterson.



Charlotte Paolini, D.O.

For the second consecutive year, Charlotte Paolini, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine, sacrificed two weeks of her vacation to participate in a rewarding medical mission to medically underserved regions of Africa. Dr. Paolini, who plans to make return medical visits to the region over the next three years, says the experience is a joy because "It is a treat to practice medicine in its purest sense, unencumbered by appointments, insurance carriers, piles of paperwork, and the endless restrictions faced by medical personnel here at home."



Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., FACP, recently collaborated with Judith Rosen Farrar, Ph.D., from Academic Services Connection, Inc., to create a continuing medical education monograph for pharmacists who see patients afflicted with virus-induced coughs. The monograph, entitled *Diagnosing and Managing the Patient with Virus-induced Cough*, was approved for one year from its April 10, 2003, release date.



Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O.

Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine, recently received a Shaker Award from Millennium Movers, an organization of professionals dedicated to going above and beyond the call of duty in their careers and promoting causes to benefit its members and the community. Dr. Anderson-Worts was honored for her perpetual willingness to volunteer her time to international medical missions and South Florida health fairs. She also presented a seminar on "Cultural Competence and Healthy Communities: Will Community Cultural Competence Eliminate Health Disparities?" at the Closing the Gap Summit: Reducing Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities symposium, which was held May 30-31 in Orlando, Florida.

Faculty Focus...Faculty Focus



Edward Packer, D.O.

Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, has established an insightful monthly lecture program for parents that is held at NSU's Library, Research, and Information Technology Center. Dr. Packer is also participating in a new

Children's Task Force on the NSU campus. The program's goal is to link the university's myriad children's clinical services and assist clinicians as well as the public in accessing the various children's clinical services available throughout the NSU campus. As part of this effort, Dr. Packer lectured to a class at the Maltz Center for Psychological Studies on the effects of chronic illness in children on both child and family. On the journalistic front, Dr. Packer was one of the experts quoted in the May 2003 issue of *The D.O.* in the article titled "Children with ADHD Benefit from Whole Patient Approach."



Elisa Ginter, D.O.

In March, Elisa Ginter, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine, presented a thought-provoking lecture on "Domestic Violence: Facing Issues of Family Violence in Clinical Practice" at the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians 40th Annual Convention and Exhibition in

Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Ginter also volunteered her time as well as her medical expertise at the Third Annual NSU Health Fair in May.



Robert A. Norman, D.O.

In addition to serving as an NSU-COM clinical assistant professor of internal medicine, Robert A. Norman, D.O., has been busy carving out a successful career as an author. Dr. Norman, who has utilized his spare time to pen books about clinical geriatrics and geriatric dermatology, has also

authored numerous fictional works, including *Maestro*, *Medical Detective*, and his most recent creation, *Baby Farm*.



David Thomas, M.D., J.D.

David Thomas, M.D., J.D., who serves as chair of NSU-COM's Division of Correctional Medicine and formerly held the position of director of health services for the Florida Department of Corrections, recently joined the college's faculty on a full-time basis. In his new appointment as chair

of the Department of Surgery, Dr. Thomas has already begun the process of expanding the college's residency training sites in surgery as well interacting with and gaining insight from the second-year class.

"I feel strongly that a knowledge of surgery, surgical indications, and surgical contraindications is essential for the competent practice of osteopathic medicine," said Dr. Thomas, who praised his predecessor, Morton Morris, D.O. J.D., for doing such a commendable job. "I feel Dr. Morris made great strides while serving as interim chair of the Department of Surgery and hope I can do as well as he did." Dr. Thomas, who played an instrumental role in establishing the college's correctional medicine rotation several years ago, has had a varied career that includes faculty appointments at several medical schools, the practice of law, and a 10-year stint in the Florida Legislature.



Ronnie Martin, D.O.

Ronnie B. Martin, D.O., FACOF, professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, was installed as secretary/treasurer of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOF) during the organization's annual convention in March and

served as a FOMA delegate at the AOA House of Delegates July meeting in Chicago, Illinois. He also presented a lecture on "Medical Errors and Domestic Violence" at the Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association's May meeting in Destin, Florida. However, his proudest achievement occurred on May 17 when his oldest daughter, Natasha N. Bray, D.O., graduated with top honors from Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences-College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Faculty Focus...Faculty Focus



James Howell, M.D.

James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, was reappointed as a voluntary professor of epidemiology and public health at the University of Miami School of Medicine. Dr. Howell also was interviewed for an April 30 *Miami Herald* article entitled "Fear of SARS

Exceeds Real Dangers."

Effective July 1, 2003, the following administrative changes occurred to provide greater efficiency within the College of Osteopathic Medicine:

Lawrence Jacobson, D.O., professor and associate dean for medical education, was named vice dean of NSU-COM. In this role, Dr. Jacobson will be responsible for the direction, administration, and/or coordination of the college's activities by overseeing the clinic, alumni, or student service responsibilities personally or through subordinate managers.

A. Alvin Greber, D.O., FACOI, professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, was designated associate dean for program development. In this role, Dr. Greber will be responsible for advising and counseling the dean on academic, medical, and professional issues for consideration in the identification of needs for programmatic changes. Dr. Greber will also meet with current or potential affiliates.

Ronnie Martin, D.O., FACOF, professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, was appointed associate dean for academic affairs. In this role, Dr. Martin will be responsible for developing, directing, and overseeing the academic and clinical components of osteopathic medical school training as well as the college's various department chairs.



Dr. Greber



Dr. Jacobson



Dr. Martin



Leonard Levy, D.P.M.

Leonard A. Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., professor and associate dean of education, planning, and research, was one of 25 individuals who earned honorable mention when votes were compiled for the 20th annual *Podiatry Management* Lifetime Achievement Award.



Jennie Q. Lou, M.D.

Earlier this year, Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc., associate professor of public health, and her colleagues conducted a clinical study titled "A Case-Control Study to Assess the Association Between Vitamin D Serum Levels and Multiple Sclerosis" at NSU's Sanford. L. Ziff Clinic. The study's results will be presented at the 131st Annual American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference in San Francisco, California this November.



Joseph Stasio, D.O.

On June 5, Joseph Stasio, D.O., FACOF, assistant professor and director of the family medicine residency program at Palmetto General Hospital, presented a CME lecture on "Abnormal Vaginal Flora and Vaginitis" at the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association meeting in Hilton Head, North Carolina.



Alan Morrison, D.O.

Alan Morrison, D.O., FACP, assistant professor of internal medicine, was predominantly featured in the April 23 issue of *Medical Economics* in an article entitled "Want More Young Patients?" In the article, Dr. Morrison discusses his approach to dealing with younger patients and emphasizes the importance of being nonjudgmental when questioning and fielding responses from youths.



Looking Back — Moving Forward

Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni Reflects on Five Years of Dynamism and Warp-speed Advancement

By Scott Colton

Director of Education Communications

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., FACP, may be a true forward thinker in every conceivable way, but not even he could have foreseen the tremendous growth and myriad enhancements that have occurred since he became dean of Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine in July 1998.

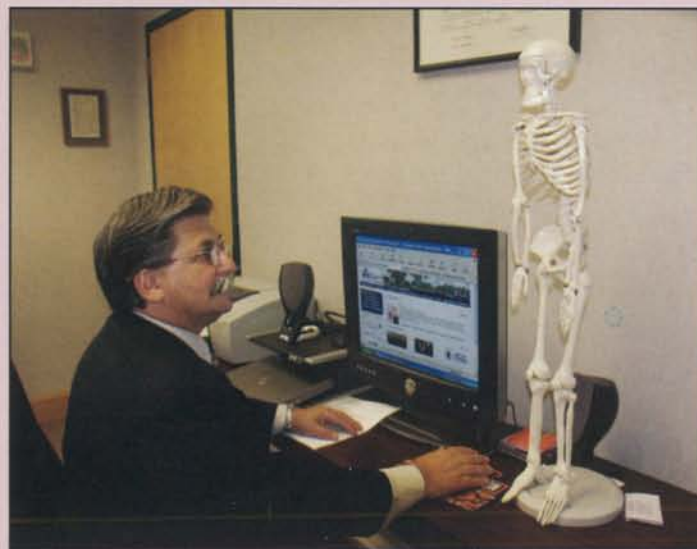
"It's hard to believe that five years have gone by," admitted Dr. Silvagni, who credits the leadership of the Health Professions Division and NSU for providing him

the latitude and environment to enhance the curriculum, hire key personnel, and implement innovative programs. "One of the real joys has been working with a truly supportive and visionary administration that continually helps us to reach out and capture opportunities when they are to the betterment of the program and the institution as a whole. I don't think any university in the nation has changed and progressed as much as ours in five years, and more specifically, our medical school. It's been a truly amazing period of growth."

Over the past four years, the pages of *COM Outlook* have faithfully chronicled the seemingly daily developments, enhancements, and achievements of the students, alumni, faculty, and staff who have helped establish NSU-COM as a leader in the field of osteopathic education. "It's been a thrill to be part of an energetic team that has helped restructure the academic curriculum and developed so many beneficial programs," Dr. Silvagni stated. "In fact, the most notable change I've witnessed over the past five years is the spirit and commitment of the faculty."

Under Dr. Silvagni's auspices, the college's diverse faculty has been encouraged to play a more active and visible role in everything from research and scholarly activity to curriculum development. "That's the area where I have received my greatest satisfaction—watching our faculty grow and mature," Dr. Silvagni admitted. "It's been rewarding to see how each faculty member has taken it upon him or herself to get involved in areas of interest, to see how the collective faculty has matured and expanded their own perception of themselves and their ability, the quality of their teaching, their scholarly activities, their role in service, and their ability to practice."

Because he's a visionary by nature, Dr. Silvagni is not content to simply revel in past glory, which explains why he is so justifiably proud of the growing expertise and energy exhibited by the college's faculty. "Five years ago, scholarly activity at NSU-COM was limited to a couple of people on an occasional basis," he explained. "Now we have faculty routinely submitting articles that are being accepted and being brought forward at the national level. We also have faculty being routinely invited to serve as primary speakers at national and international conferences as well as faculty members who are becoming well known in various aspects of research. We've done a good job of



building a solid foundation in these areas, but the reality is we're still at the infancy stage of development."

When examined in detail, it's readily apparent the past five years have encompassed a mind-boggling mix of accomplishment that includes the

- establishment of the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education
- formation of the Department of Education, Planning, and Research
- explosion of grant proposals and grants received
- emphasis on local and international medical missions
- creation of the Alumni Association Fund
- expansion of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice
- development of the nation's first osteopathic preventive medicine residency program
- implementation of OSCE curriculum
- establishment of an innovative bioterrorism and weapons of mass destruction curriculum and center
- creation of the Dean's Alumni Advisory Council
- production of the award-winning *COM Outlook*
- incorporation of the M.P.H. Program under the NSU-COM umbrella and its accreditation
- development of dual-degree programs
- strengthening of the Division of Geriatrics
- increase in faculty and student-driven research
- emphasis on active learning
- availability of the electronic library for all faculty
- establishment of residencies in pediatrics, orthopedic surgery, sports medicine, and geriatrics
- sustained excellence of the AHEC Program
- growth and maturation of OPP Fellowship Program



In addition to taking pride in the continued accomplishments of the faculty and students, Dr. Silvagni is equally as gratified by the categorical success of the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education, which was established in 1999 to increase opportunities for postgraduate medical training, internships, residencies, fellowships, and continuing education programs.

"The development of CEME—our osteopathic postgraduate training institution (OPTI), which is required for all accredited osteopathic internships or residencies—has allowed us to have a positive effect on a very serious statewide problem," Dr. Silvagni explained. "Florida currently ranks 45th in the nation in graduate medical education (GME) when based upon the number of residents per 100,000 in population. This is primarily due to hospital closures and a lack of financial support coupled with a continuing rapid growth in the state population and marginal growth in GME.

"Fortunately, we have been able to grow our residencies and salvage some programs through the formation of our consortium and the support we've been able to provide our numerous partners throughout Florida and the southeastern United States," he added. "When the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education was created in 1999, we had about 300 internship and residency slots available. Today, at a time when overall GME is shrinking, we have over 500 positions available, which is a great accomplishment."

With many projects already in the development pipeline—including a forensic pathology fellowship—Dr. Silvagni is busy formulating a futuristic agenda that will ensure another fruitful five-year phase of achievement. "Vision-wise, I would like to see us eventually establish a research center, a medical education center, and a medical informatics program" he said. "Over the next five years, I'd like to see these ideas become realities and become integrated within the mission of the college as a whole."

His ambitious agenda, which includes further strengthening of the college's clinical education component and participating in the globalization of osteopathic medicine, also encompasses the prospect of "seeing NSU-COM become a center of excellence in a few areas I think we have a high probability of achieving," he explained. "We are doing some noteworthy things in the areas of public health, bioterrorism/weapons of mass destruction, and osteopathic principles and practice. My goal is to have NSU-COM become nationally and internationally recognized as an expert in those areas and become a leader in the development of new knowledge in those areas."



Although Dr. Silvagni has been the architect of many of the college's recent accomplishments, he is quick to reiterate that none of these academic triumphs could have been achieved without the support of the HPD and university administration. "Fortunately, one of the major attributes of this institution is that, because of the vision of the university and of the HPD, we work in an environment that has acted as a conduit to help us find solutions to challenges and to turn challenges into opportunities. The administration's innovative way of thinking has allowed the College of Osteopathic Medicine to build an infrastructure that incorporates communications,

research, electronic data collection, grants management, and so many other vital components that did not exist five years ago.

"These are all pieces that needed to be here because they are the underpinnings that help ensure our continued growth and success," he added. "It's like a quarterback without an effective offensive line. If the offensive line isn't strong, the quarterback will never be able to develop the play because he'll get tackled every time. The real story of the past five years is that we have evolved from a group of independent educators to a faculty team that, through the coalescing of its skills, is working toward a unified goal of medical education and academic excellence."



Since joining the NSU-COM faculty in 1994, Dr. Myint Myint Aye has worked closely with A. Alvin Greber, D.O., FACOI, professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, on the various aspects of the systems courses.

After a Lifetime in Burma, Dr. Myint Myint Aye Finds Fulfillment at Nova Southeastern University

By Scott Colton

Director of Education Communications

When Myint Myint Aye, M.B.B.S., D.T.M.H, M.R.C.P, F.R.C.P, initially relocated to the United States from Burma (now known as Myanmar) in 1992 following her “retirement” from a distinguished and rewarding 30-year medical career, her immediate plans included nothing more strenuous than spending time with some treasured family members.

However, within two months of arriving on U.S. shores to revel in retirement, Dr. Aye—a self-professed workaholic who currently serves as NSU-COM’s director of systems—quickly found the experience to be more enervating than exhilarating. “Because of my driven nature, I simply cannot retire,” said Dr. Aye, who joined the NSU-COM faculty in July 1994. “When I moved to Los Angeles to



In 1950, Dr. Aye was on the cusp of embarking on her medical odyssey.

stay with my brother and his family, it was liberating at first because I relaxed, watched television, and visited all the tourist attractions. But after a month I was completely bored. Then my younger brother invited me to come to Chicago to stay

with him for a while. I stayed for about a month, but by that point I knew a life of leisure was not going to fulfill me."

That admission is not surprising when you consider it comes from a woman who has spent her life overcoming cultural and societal obstacles. Despite growing up in an underdeveloped country at a time when professional opportunities for women were the exception and not the rule, Dr. Aye boldly eschewed cultural norms to pursue an expansive medical career instead of the more traditional route of marriage and motherhood.

Burmese Upbringing Proves Challenging

As a child growing up in Burma, which is located in Southeast Asia between China and India, Dr. Aye devoted herself to excelling in school, which was no easy feat when you consider she had to learn three disparate languages before the age of 15. "Because my family's ethnic origin is Chinese, my father believed that me and my five brothers and sisters should know the Chinese traditions, so we were sent to a Chinese school in Burma," she explained. "But just learning Chinese made it difficult to earn a living because Burma was under British rule at that time, so you really needed to know English in order to work in a top profession."

After mastering the Chinese language, Dr. Aye was transferred to an English speaking school, which proved to be a challenging yet beneficial experience. Becoming bilingual at an early age was indeed a daunting enough task, so imagine how perplexing it must have been when political circumstances compelled Dr. Aye to add Burmese to her burgeoning linguistic library. "When Burma gained independence from Great Britain in 1948, the Burmese government started to transform all methods of teaching into Burmese," she explained. "So I then had to learn the Burmese language at the age of 15."

In addition to becoming fluent in her country's native tongue, Dr. Aye's Burmese heritage also imbued her with a legacy people still question to this day—her double first name. "It is a bit strange to other people why I have my first name repeated, but that's just the way the Burmese culture is," she stated. "At other points in history they sometimes repeated a person's first name three or four times."

Medical Interest Has Early Origins

Armed with the confidence that comes from being trilingual at such a young age, Dr. Aye began working toward her goal of becoming a physician as soon as her high-school commencement transpired. "I always knew I wanted to be a doctor who spent her life making a positive difference in people's lives," said Dr. Aye, who witnessed her share of human suffering caused by Burma's chronic physician dearth. "When I was growing up there were not many doctors in Burma, and many people suffered as a result of the shortage, and many of its citizen died from untreated infectious diseases."

After being accepted into the University of Rangoon, Dr. Aye embarked on a comprehensive seven-year course of study that included a two-year premed program followed by a five-year medical school curriculum. The challenging five-year track comprised anatomy, physiology, and organic chemistry in years one and two and microbiology, basic pathology, and pharmacology in year three followed by clinical medicine in the final two years.

"When I entered medical school, I told myself I was going to strive to be the best despite the language barriers I knew I would encounter," said Dr. Aye, who graduated with honors in 1957 with an M.B.B.S. degree, which is equivalent to an M.D. degree and stands for bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery. "By the time I finished



In 1963, Dr. Aye called England home.

medical school, my father had already passed away, and my mother thought I was going to stay in Burma and establish a clinic to treat patients once I finished my internship and residency. But I knew I had no desire to become a family practitioner."

Instead, Dr. Aye yearned to emulate one of her favorite professors, who had earned additional degrees from Great Britain before returning to Burma. "Even before I began my internship and residency in internal medicine at Rangoon General Hospital, I was thinking of a way to go to Great Britain for further study and training," she explained. "So I applied for and received a Colombo Plan Scholarship Award, which is sponsored through the United Kingdom and offered to developing countries to help further a physician's education."

The Colombo Plan, which is a three-year scholarship program, allows a physician to tailor a course of study that dovetails with his or her areas of interest. During her three years on the Colombo Plan Scholarship, Dr. Aye gained invaluable experience by relocating to England and Scotland to study

- general internal medicine and hematology at the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh
- cardiology at National Heart Hospital in London
- neurology at Queen Square Center for Neurology in London.
- nephrology, liver diseases, and gastroenterology at the Royal Free Hospital in London
- pulmonary medicine at Brompton Hospital in London
- tropical diseases at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London.

By the end of her United Kingdom odyssey, Dr. Aye had earned a diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene (D.T.M.H.) from the University of London as well as the highest medical degree accorded in United Kingdom Membership of Royal College of Physicians (M.R.C.P), which she received in 1963.

Telegram Precipitates Return to Burma

Before plotting her next career move, Dr. Aye decided to stay on in England for a while to assist with dialysis research at London's Royal Free Hospital. Fortuitously, fate intervened in the form of an unexpected telegram from her favorite professor at the University of Rangoon—a telegram that would ultimately precipitate her return to Burma. "My professor at the University of Rangoon had a vacancy and asked me to come back and work as an assistant professor of internal medicine at Rangoon General Hospital," said Dr. Aye, who accepted the offer and returned to Burma in November 1963.

For the next three years, Dr. Aye saw patients and worked with the students during their fourth- and fifth-year clinical



Providing health care to the underserved citizens of Burma remained a top priority for Dr. Aye throughout her career.

rotations. Then, in 1966, opportunity came knocking again in the form of an offer to teach and practice at the Institute of Medicine of Mandalay and Mandalay General Hospital in Burma. It proved to be a fruitful affiliation, which is evidenced by the fact that Dr. Aye

remained there until 1990 and rose through the administrative ranks to become professor and chair of the university's internal medicine department.

After resigning from that role in 1990, Dr. Aye spent the next two years as a consulting physician at Burma's Mandalay Clinic. But in 1992, a combination of factors led Dr. Aye to ponder retirement as well as relocation to an exciting new locale—the United States. "With the political changes and unrest occurring in Burma, I decided the time had come to make a major change in my life," said Dr. Aye, who became a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (F.R.C.P) in 1979. "My youngest brother had relocated to America in 1969 and had become a cytopathologist in Chicago, while my eldest brother migrated to Los Angeles to become an accountant. So after 30 years of nonstop work, I decided the time had come to retire to America."

Jamaican Detour Provides New Challenges

After spending two months visiting relatives and receiving a crash course in boredom, Dr. Aye quickly realized she and retirement were an ill-suited match. "I decided I wanted to practice in this country, but I soon discovered I would have to go through three years of residency training in the United States because my medical degree was from Burma," explained Dr. Aye, who had no intention of pursuing that particular course of action. "So you know what I did?" she recalled with a grin. "I picked up the phone, called the ministry of health in Jamaica, and was hired as a consulting physician at Cornwall Regional Hospital in Montego Bay."

During her 18-month stay in Jamaica, Dr. Aye dealt with a complex array of cases. However, one case proved particularly gratifying to her because of its inordinately

successful outcome. "An 11-year-old girl, who was suffering from paralysis in the lower limbs, had been admitted to the pediatrics ward," she explained. "The pediatric consultant was on vacation at that time, so I was assigned to be in charge of the unit. Consequently, when the attending resident on the case, who had already made his diagnosis, asked me to approve the girl's transfer to Kingston for additional care, I was skeptical."

The resident had made a preliminary diagnosis of Guillain Barre Syndrome, an acute inflammatory polyradiculoneuropathy of autoimmune nature, characterized by muscle weakness first noticed in the legs and ascending paralysis that can spread to the muscles of respiration and the cranial nerves. Fortunately, Dr. Aye refused to authorize the girl's transfer and conducted her own hands-on examination. "By using my physical diagnosis skills—my eyes, ears, and hands as well as my stethoscope, I concluded the paralysis was being caused by some sort of spinal cord compression and not an infection or inflammation."

After referring the patient to the hospital's neurosurgical unit, a spinal tumor was discovered and subsequently removed. Within two weeks, the girl was up and walking normally.

Jamaica's Loss Becomes NSU-COM's Gain

Although she was happy with the work she was doing in Jamaica, Dr. Aye became curious when she heard about the impending merger between Nova University and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences. Indulging her intrepidness once again, she submitted her curriculum vitae and was hired by NSU-COM's former dean, Matthew Terry, D.O., as an assistant professor of internal medicine in July 1994.

After launching her NSU-COM career as director of a laboratory medicine course, Dr. Aye was soon elevated to a lofty new position in 1996 after the college adopted an interdisciplinary systems courses approach to teaching whereby traditional classroom lectures are given in an integrated fashion so that clinical aspects, pathophysiology of diseases, and disorders of each system are addressed. "When the curriculum changed in 1995 to a systems courses approach, each professor was given the task of creating a system," Dr. Aye recalled. "I was assigned the hematopoietic and lymphoreticular system, which they gave me two weeks to work on."



Because she thoroughly relishes her educational role at NSU-COM, retirement is not an option Dr. Aye plans to sample again anytime soon.

with their courses," she stated. "As a result, in 1996, I was assigned to be the director of the 10 systems courses and work with the clinical faculty and basic science faculty who provide input."

Although nine years have passed since she joined the NSU-COM faculty, Dr. Aye has no intention of trading her office for a rocking chair anytime soon. "I actually feel more energetic now than I've ever been," she admitted. "Without work I don't know how I would spend my day. Even though I am not directly treating patients anymore, I have the satisfaction of dealing with medical education. When I prepared to retire from Burma over a decade ago, I was fully satisfied with my contributions to society because I had successfully treated thousands of patients. But I also have satisfaction now because I am still making a contribution to the field of medical education."

The outpouring of affection and respect she receives from her former and current students also helps explain her desire to resist retirement for the foreseeable future. "Even though I have lived in the United States for almost 10 years, I still get letters and presents from my former students and patients in Burma," she said. "As long as I feel fit and healthy, I will work. What I try to tell my students is that if you persevere regardless of the challenges that are placed before you, you are sure to succeed."

While her peers struggled mightily to flesh out their courses, Dr. Aye conjured hers up in less than a week. "Because some of the other faculty members had a difficult time putting their system together, I wound up helping three other professors



Dr. Charlotte Paolini's religious faith plays a major role in her positive outlook when it comes to dealing with the harsh realities of death.

“Last Breath” How Doctors Deal with Death

*By Scott Colton
Director of Education Communications*

Mortality is a reality we all have to deal with at various stages in our lives, be it the death of a beloved pet, the loss of an aged relative, or the untimely demise of a close friend or mentor. Fortunately, dealing with death and the gut-wrenching emotions it can stir is not something most of us have to contend with on a regular basis.

The same, however, cannot be said for physicians, who must make peace with the fact that death will be an all-too-frequent part of their daily existence. Once all medical

acumen and cutting-edge treatments have been exhausted and a fatal prognosis has been tendered, physicians then have the unenviable task of navigating a treacherous emotional obstacle course when it comes to dealing with their dying patients.

Compassion vs. Coldness: A Medical Paradox

One of the raps against the new millennium brand of medicine is that it has evolved into a soulless enterprise that often sacrifices humanism in favor of science.

Physicians who once displayed warmth, empathy, and *Marcus Welby*-like bedside manners were seemingly replaced with a new generation of practitioners that sometimes seemed as emotionless as automatons when it came to dealing with dying patients.

"I think it's impossible to separate your emotions when you're a physician," said Kenneth Johnson, D.O., who serves as director of NSU's Women's Health Center and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology. "Yes, some are better at it than others, but the more you separate yourself from the true emotions of the reality, the more distant you are to the patient. In OB/GYN, where you've got two lives at stake, emotional separation serves the patient even less well. Staying emotionally attached is very important, because if a patient senses you're being mechanical about her baby in utero, and the husband perceives you're in any way emotionally detached from his wife and future child, then the outcomes can be adversely affected."

It's an emotional tightrope that every physician handles differently. Some, like Dr. Johnson, wear their heart on their sleeves and form strong empathetic bonds with the patient and their families, while others, like Gary Hill, D.O., showcase compassion mixed with a healthy dose of emotional restraint. "Emotional involvement is a rather nebulous thing to me," stated Dr. Hill, an assistant professor of internal medicine who served as medical director of a community health center in Gadsden, Alabama, for 12 years. "I am as emotionally involved in treating any of my patients as I would be if I was treating my mother, my wife, or my children."

"What I don't bring to the table when I practice is emotion," he stressed. "The emotions I have are kept outside my practice. What I hope to bring to the table is compassion, an understanding of medicine, and the most appropriate and germane treatment to the particular case. Some patients will like my style and some won't. When I meet with my patients, I tell them, 'I don't promise you good news, I don't promise you bad news. I do promise you one thing—that you will get the truth no matter what it is.' I am a deliverer of news. No one has ever come back to me and said, 'I wish you had not told me the truth; I'd rather you had lied to me.'"

Charlotte Paolini, D.O., who serves as assistant professor of geriatrics, has earned widespread praise and undying affection for her kindhearted approach to patient care.



Dr. Gary Hill adopts a compassionate yet emotionally-controlled approach to patient care.

Yet she is the first to admit that dealing with end-of-life issues was something she initially struggled with early in her medical career. "When I was about 19, I worked in a nursing home one summer, but I originally found it very depressing and would come home at night feeling very dejected," she recalled. "My father sat me down one day and said, 'You can either become part of the problem or you can do something to fix the problem.' After that conversation I decided that if I were going to work with older adults, I would try to bring something positive and upbeat to the situation. I began organizing wheelchair races and doing fun things with the patients. More importantly, I began to appreciate the people I was taking care of and see them as more than just frail old dying people."

Humanizing a Dehumanizing Experience

There's no way to sugarcoat the fact that death in its many forms is a decidedly downbeat experience, especially when it involves a protracted and painful final exit. Nobody, especially a physician, enjoys watching a terminally ill patient wither to nothingness and suffer extreme discomfort over a period of weeks and months. The key, says Dr. Hill, is to stay connected to the patient and remain attune to his or her needs regardless of the circumstances.

"What I have done throughout my practice is touch people, whether it's been with my hands or, I hope, spiritually," said Dr. Hill, who graduated from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1984.

"I have very few superficial relationships because I am always looking to touch people in the osteopathic way. The osteopathic way means not to just touch them in the manipulative therapy sense but to also touch them beyond the physical so you have an all-encompassing relationship."

Dr. Paolini, who watched her father slowly succumb to lymphoma a number of years ago, is a fervent proponent of a "die with dignity" approach that emphasizes hospice over hospital whenever possible. "When it became apparent my father's condition was deteriorating, the hospice unit came in and helped us turn one of the bedrooms in our home into a hospital room," she recalled. "The hospice nurses came in to help every day, and I was with my father at his bedside, as were my brother and sister, my mother, and all his grandchildren when he died. When I teach my medical students about hospice, I tell them I will be forever grateful because hospice allowed my father to die at home among friends and family—the way he wanted to. It was such a privilege and a blessing to be there right to the very end. I'm so glad for that experience because it has allowed me to bring that understanding to the people I take care of now, to let them know it doesn't have to be awful. Nobody has to die alone. We may not be able to get you to live forever, but we can help you to die well.

"Most people think hospice means no care when it really means more care," she added. "So while there may be less technical and medical support, there is definitely more human support. Human touch is brought into the picture, and the hospice nurses check on the patients regularly. The really nice thing is that if a patient goes into the terminal stages and we know death is imminent within hours or days, we put the patient in what we call crisis care, and they will put a hospice worker at the bedside 24 hours a day until the patient dies. The hospice workers are there specifically to take care of pain needs, to keep the patients clean and hydrated, to keep them company, to rub their backs, and to make sure their linens are constantly clean."

The Importance of Empowerment

As human beings, we all like to have as much control as possible over our lives and the decisions we make. Unfortunately, when a terminal illness strikes, individuals

are frequently robbed of that control, which is why Dr. Hill is adamant about empowering patients as they face their mortality. "When someone is dying, or more importantly, when the family of the one who is ill is surrounding that individual, what becomes most distressing to people is not the disease but the disempowerment issue," he stated. "We understand the disempowerment issue economically and socially, but we really haven't understood it in the total context of medicine—that when we no longer have control, when we can no longer feed ourselves, when we can no longer go to the bathroom—that's disempowering. And human beings usually judge themselves by what they can do.

"When that independence is gone or taken away, they experience diminished self-esteem and self worth, which then leads to depression, withdrawal, and a sense of loneliness," he added. "So my view is to give them back control by providing them with choices and options. The choice of death and dying, while it may not seem like a choice, it actually does become a choice—a choice of not only that I may die but how I may die. And how I may die is actually more important than the act of dying because we all will die. Until recently in the pendulum of medicine, people used to die in the hospital. And that's a lonely place to die—amongst strangers. Dying at home with their family members around them, dying without pain and suffering, all of those issues are best addressed by empowering the patient to make these choices."

Dr. Paolini, who has dealt with death more often than most physicians, agrees with Dr. Hill's candid assessment, adding that, "I don't believe anybody should have to die alone. That may be the destiny for some of us, but if we can avoid that I think it's so important. We're all going to die, but my hope is that we die well and not in an intensive care unit or in a hospital room. I've seen that happen too often, and it breaks my heart when there is nobody there to comfort you and you are just a name on an identification band."

Accepting Death as Part of Life

Much like lawyers must accept the fact they will occasionally be defeated no matter how well they argue a



Empathy Exemplified: Dr. Kenneth Johnson

case in court, physicians must brace themselves for the brutal reality that even the most conscientious medical care may not be enough to save an ailing patient. "You can't change Mother Nature. That's what you have to stay emotionally detached from—the false reality that you can somehow save everyone," Dr. Johnson explained. "It's very painful but not impossible to maintain both an appropriate level of emotional involvement while also relying exclusively on the skills you have to do the best you can."



Gary Hill, D.O.

Because Dr. Paolini specializes in geriatrics, the specter of death is omnipresent throughout her interaction with patients. So how does she maintain such a jovial disposition when dealing with a platoon of patients hovering at death's door? "It's hard," she admitted. "When a patient I've gotten close to dies, it's a loss and I grieve. My students frequently ask, 'How do you do this?' My faith helps me and gives me strength. I think that's really what allows me to do what I do. I try to just think of what I can do to make whatever time my patients have left as good as possible by making the visits cheery, ensuring that their comfort needs are being met, and making certain they're being given proper palliation."

"I also visit whenever I can to support the nurses and the patients," she added. "It's not easy, but you do it because that's part of the cycle of life. Just like Dr. Johnson gets to help bring people into the world, I get to help people exit the world. I consider it a privilege. It's something as a physician I need to know how to do—and I need to know how to do it well. It doesn't always happen that way because not every death is a good death, and I regret that. But you do the best you can. And you cry on your own time."

Dr. Hill, who adopts a more stoic approach when it comes to dealing with death, says one of the only times he ever cried was when he didn't think he had done enough to save a patient's life. "It was very early on in my career when I was still a medical student," he explained. "Any other time when I have provided medical care, when I have given the best that I could or the best that I thought medicine could provide, then I have not been

regretful or mournful. Death to me is not a regretful circumstance. I don't look at it as being the end of life; I look at it as being part of the continuum of life."

Ever the optimist, Dr. Johnson says he actually derives motivation to continue even when an outcome is negative because he knows he's making a difference. "When you do your best and lose a patient, I think you've exhausted all your skills and all your emotion in the process. So it's motivation for me to continue,"

he stated. "One of the most important aspects of what I do is making sure I support a patient who has a poor prognosis and not abandon her emotionally. We hear about that happening all the time. I basically try to do just the opposite by reminding myself how I would want my physician to act if the situation was reversed and I had a terminal illness."



Charlotte Paolini, D.O.

"As a physician, I want to be there for the patient and her family," he continued. "It's hard because inside you want to distance yourself from the fact that you're not going to win this battle. But that's the wrong thing to do. I'm also comfortable with the fact that I don't always get to have a good outcome. I think physicians in general struggle with that because there is not a lot of support for that reality. Patients go to a doctor and subconsciously believe they will miraculously be fixed. And that's simply not true. So if you're going to be an effective, caring, loving physician, you have to stay in there when the chips are down. And you have to accept the fact that patients will die."

"Most importantly, it's an essential time when patients respect you the most," he concluded. "You're never prepared for bad outcomes, but you have to know it's a part of medicine. Historically, if you think about the famous healers in medicine, especially in the early history of the profession, they lost almost all their patients to ailments like infection or pneumonia. The reality is that patients still die despite your best efforts. If it was good enough for my predecessors, it's good enough for me. I don't get it the way I want it. I'm not always going to win the battle against life and death. It's simply the cost of doing business."



Kenneth Johnson, D.O.

Student Achievement Honored at Senior Banquet

On May 23, the following awards were presented at the NSU-COM Senior Awards Dinner Dance:



Chancellor's Award

Presented to the student who best exemplifies the characteristics of a fine osteopathic physician—a combination of scholarship, leadership, integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession

Recipient: John Edward Sheppard, D.O.
Presenter: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.



Matthew A. Terry, D.O. Memorial Award

Presented to the student chosen by his or her peers as the exemplary osteopathic medical student

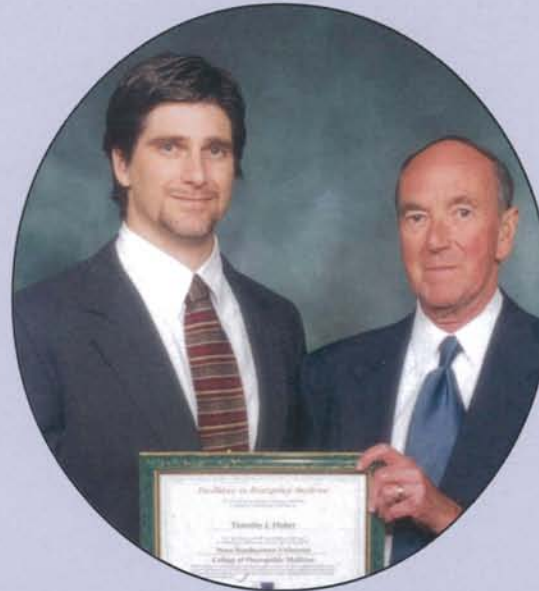
Recipient: Lisa Songco Kellogg, D.O.
Presenter: Albert Whitehead, D.M.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.



Morton and Mary Smith Achievement Award

Presented to the student exhibiting the highest quality of service and leadership, combined with scholarship, integrity, and personal worth

Recipient: Christopher Siano, D.O.
Presenter: A. Alvin Greber, D.O.



Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award

Presented to the graduate who has demonstrated outstanding proficiency in emergency medicine as selected by the faculty of NSU-COM

Recipient: Timothy James Huber, D.O.
Presenter: Myron Howell, D.O.

Graduation 2003...Graduation 2003



Alumni Association Award

Presented to the student who, by his/her leadership, has done the most to maintain the cohesiveness, unity, and esprit de corps within his/her class for all four years of his/her osteopathic medical education

Recipient: James A. Treadwell, D.O.
Presenter: Howard Neer, D.O.



Florida Chapter, American Academy of Osteopathy Award in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

Presented to the student who has achieved the highest proficiency in osteopathic therapeutics

Recipient: Morningstar J. Anton, D.O.
Presenter: Michael Patterson, Ph.D.



Dean's Award

Presented for academic excellence to the student graduating with the highest scholastic achievement

Recipient: Lisa Songco Kellogg, D.O.
Presenter: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.



Clinical Service Award

Presented to the student judged to be outstanding in clinical service

Recipient: Hollie Jo Hickman, D.O.
Presenter: Joseph DeGaetano, D.O.

Graduation 2003...Graduation 2003



Morton and Geraldine Terry Internal Medicine Award

Presented to the student for the highest achievement in the study of internal medicine, both academic and clinical

Recipient: Louis Nicholas Gerolemou, D.O.
Presenter: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.



Class of 2003 Appreciation Award

Presented to the class of 2003 president for his innumerable contributions to the college and his classmates

Recipient: Chirag Shah, D.O.
Presenter: Kasey Nelson, D.O.



Dean's Organizational Award

Presented to the senior who demonstrated organizational skills and leadership and received recognition from his/her peers during a productive academic career

Recipient: Gregory Glenn Gulick, D.O.
Presenter: Lauritz "Larry" A. Jensen, D.A.



Rose Community Service Award

Presented to the student who demonstrates sincere interest in community service or community projects

Recipient: Jennifer Jill Auerbach, D.O.
Presenter: Steven Zucker, D.M.D.

Graduation 2003...Graduation 2003



Outstanding Student in Pediatric Service

Awarded to a student who actively organized and participated in at least three children's projects and considered by students and faculty to have motivated children's-related projects at NSU-COM

Recipient: Christopher Siano, D.O.

Presenter: Edward Packer, D.O.



Government and Public Policy Award

Presented to that member of the graduating class who has shown unique interest in developing an understanding of governmental and public health care policies and procedures

Recipient: James A. Treadwell, D.O.

Presenter: James Howell, M.D., M.P.H.



Medal of Excellence

Presented for dedication to the development and implementation of innovative educational programs and tireless commitment to the college's missions and goals

Recipient: Anthony Ottaviani, D.O., M.P.H.

Presenter: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.



Samuel J. Salman, D.O. Family Medicine Award

Presented by the FSACOF to the student whose scholarship, patient empathy, dedication, concern, and goals epitomize the osteopathic family physician

Recipient: Troy M. Sterk, D.O.

Presenter: Joseph DeGaetano, D.O.

Graduation 2003...Graduation 2003



Dean's Community Award

Awarded to that member of the graduating class who, by personal and professional conduct, and by contributions to the student affairs and to the general program of NSU-COM, has been deemed worthy of special citation as a recipient of the Dean's Community Award

Recipients: Scott M. Greenberg, D.O.; Chirag V. Shah, D.O.; and Jeffrey D. Lebensburger, D.O.

Presenter: Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.



National Health Service Corps Certificates

Presented to class of 2003 students who will be working with the NHSC in future years to provide primary care to underserved communities and populations

Recipients: Tae In Yu, D.O.

(not present: Mujtaba Ali Khan, D.O.)

Presenter: Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed.



Osteopathic Principles and Practice Fellowship Certificates

Presented to students who have completed a predoctoral clinical and teaching fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice from July 2000 to May 2003

Recipients: Morningstar Anton, D.O., and Andrew Schwartz, D.O.

Presenter: Mark Sandhouse, D.O.



Donna Jones Moritsugu Award

This award, sponsored by the American Osteopathic Foundation, honors the spouses of graduating students who best exemplify the role of a professional's partner in being an individual in his or her own right while being supportive of mate, family, and the profession

Recipient: Carmen Cornide

Presenter: Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H.

Graduation 2003...Graduation 2003



Sigma Sigma Phi Membership

Sigma Sigma Phi is a national honorary osteopathic service fraternity whose main objectives include furthering the science of osteopathic medicine and its standards of practice as well as promoting a higher degree of fellowship among its students. To earn membership consideration, Sigma Sigma Phi members are required to have a minimum grade point average of 80 percent; however, selection is based primarily upon service and leadership in the osteopathic community. Following are the individuals who earned membership in NSU-COM's Sigma Sigma Phi chapter:

Christa Ambrose, D.O.
Benjamin Chin, D.O.
Andrew Clark, D.O.
Matt Elias, D.O.
Scott Greenberg, D.O.
Erika Gromelski, D.O.
Jeffrey Lebensburger, D.O.
Susan Lee, D.O.
Jeffrey Tsai-Jui Liou, D.O.
Kasey Nelson, D.O.
Shawn Obi, D.O.
Chirag Shah, D.O.
John Sheppard, D.O.
Darren Sommer, D.O.
Karin Stanton, D.O.
Troy Michael Sterk, D.O.
Dai Takahashi, D.O.
James Winchester Tole, D.O.
James Treadwell, D.O.
Jen Wilkerson, D.O.



Psi Sigma Alpha Inductees

Membership in the Theta Chapter of the Psi Sigma Alpha National Osteopathic Scholastic Honor Society is based on laudable traits such as academic achievement (placing in the top 15 percent of their class), high moral character, and integrity. Following are the individuals who earned entry into the Psi Sigma Alpha Honor Society:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Debra Balliram, D.O. | Tal Klatchko, D.O. |
| Antony Chen, D.O. | Raymond Knisley, D.O. |
| Benjamin Chin, D.O. | Lawrence Kutz, D.O. |
| Scott Deckelbaum, D.O. | Jeffrey Lebensburger, D.O. |
| Christopher Delisle, D.O. | Ryan Messiner, D.O. |
| Nguyen Do, D.O. | Michael Misuraca, D.O. |
| Louis Gerolemou, D.O. | Keri Mullen, D.O. |
| Hermann Gonzalez, D.O. | Krishnamurti Munoz, D.O. |
| Erika Gromelski, D.O. | Cara Nelson-James, D.O. |
| Derek Hiltz, D.O. | Vincent Peronti, D.O. |
| Quinn Holzheimer, D.O. | Tali Rombro, D.O. |
| Timothy Huber, D.O. | Jeffrey Schubert, D.O. |
| Zolia Jorra, D.O. | John Sheppard, D.O. |
| Michelle Judah, D.O. | Elizabeth Simpson, D.O. |
| Lisa Songco Kellogg, D.O. | Shauntell Solomon, D.O. |
| Michael Kellogg, D.O. | Jason Stringer, D.O. |
| Alberik Keshishian, D.O. | Margaret Thompson, D.O. |

Award Winners Not in Attendance

Outstanding Student in Study of Pediatrics

Ronald Emerick, Jr., D.O.

Golden Apple Awards

Kathleen M. Khin, M.B.B.S., and
Maung M. Khin-Aung, M.B.B.S.

Albert L. Weiner, D.O. Memorial Psychiatry Award

Ramsey Pevsner, D.O.

Graduation 2003...Graduation 2003



NSU-COM Class of 2003 Graduates

Anamika Agrawal of Miami, Florida
 Carla Joy Albarran of Davie, Florida
 Mujtaba Ali-Khan of Plantation, Florida
 Romuald Altine of North Miami Beach, Florida
 Christa Elizabeth Ambrose of Pacific Palisades, California
 Maria Lena Anello of Jacksonville, Florida
 Morningstar Anton of Delray Beach, Florida
 Jamie Aron-Bayof of Weston, Florida

Jennifer Jill Auerbach of Clearwater, Florida

Patricia Jude Aurelien of Miami, Florida
 Debra Beverley Balliram of Hollywood, Florida
 Pamela Marni Berkman of Aventura, Florida
 Andrew Marc Bernstein of Boca Raton, Florida
Brian Anthony Bianco of Riverton, New Jersey
 Michael Anthony Blain of Addison, Illinois
 Theresa Maria Blanco of Miami, Florida
 Brooke Ellen Blanton of Davie, Florida
 Brandon Karl Bodlak of High Springs, Florida
 Ariadna Leandra Bory of Hialeah Gardens, Florida
 Peter Warren Brandrup of Plantation, Florida
 Jonathan David Bratter of Plantation, Florida
 Clarence James Bronstema of Palm Harbor, Florida
 Lise Dobysh Brown of Aventura, Florida
 Michael Joseph Burbridge, II, of Hobe Sound, Florida
 Glenn Padilla Buyo of Miami, Florida
 Esaïe Carisma of Miami, Florida
 Emily Chia-Chun Chang of Mount Prospect, Illinois

*Antony Eugene Chen of Monterey Park, California

Julie Nicole Chevillet of Spokane, Washington

***Benjamin Chin of Burlington Massachusetts**

Andrew Robert Clark of Clearwater, Florida
 Todd Frederick Clarkson of Belleair, Florida
 Brian J. Clohessy of Hypoluxo, Florida
 Christine Donna Cochran of Miramar, Florida
 Rebecca Lea Colon of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
 Robert Colsky of Miami, Florida
 David Campbell Culver of Davie, Florida
 John Quan Vinh Dao of Orlando, Florida
 Donald Garth Antonio Dawkins of Lauderhill, Florida
 Kiren Macon Dayal of Birmingham, Alabama
 Scott Howard Deckelbaum of Davie, Florida
 Lesley de la Torre-Carrión of Miami, Florida
 *Christopher William DeLisle of Clearwater, Florida
 Thomas Joseph DeMaro of Forsyth, Georgia
 Nguyen Trong Do of Plantation, Florida

Prachi C. Doshi of Tampa, Florida
 Virginia Duany of Plantation, Florida
 Robert Vern Ebener of Davie, Florida
 Matthew Jared Elias of Mount Sinai, New York
 Ronald Emerick, Jr., of Schenectady, New York
 Kerry Lee Englert of Oldsmar, Florida
 Anthony Victor Esposito of Plantation, Florida
 Jennifer Lynn Evans of Davie, Florida
 Natacha Suzanne Falcon of Davie, Florida
 Bryan Ashton Farford of Jacksonville, Florida
 Hafusat Abosedede Fawehinmi of Boynton Beach, Florida
 Natalia Maria Figueroa-Jolliff of Clearwater, Florida
 Mark N. Flanagan of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
 Adela Rosa Garcia of Hallandale, Florida
 **Louis Nicholas Gerolemou of Hallandale, Florida
 Amaury Gómez of Hialeah, Florida
 *Hermann Francisco Gonzalez of Cincinnati, Ohio
 Lance Stewart Gordon of Pembroke Pines, Florida
 Lilia Gorodinsky of Brooklyn, New York
 Cari Danielle Graber of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
 David Carlton Graper of Newberry, Florida
 Scott Matthew Greenberg of Boca Raton, Florida
 John Gregg of Hawthorne, New Jersey
 Kimberly Ann Grill of Miami, Florida
 Erika Beth Gromelski of Miami Shores, Florida
 Gregory G. Gulick of Largo, Florida
 Jennifer Elizabeth Hall of Estero, Florida
 Philip Arthur Ham, Jr., of Cantonment, Florida
 Shawna Minnette Hampton of Coconut Creek, Florida
 Saadia Noreen Haneef of West Palm Beach, Florida
 Scott M. Harley of Lauderhill, Florida
 Carlos J. Haro of Pembroke Pines, Florida
 Robert S. Hawkins, Jr., of Wellington, Florida
 Trevi A. Hibsman of Rancho Palos Verdes, California
 Hollie J. Hickman of New Smyrna Beach, Florida
 Derek Jon Hiltz of Brandon, Florida
 Quinn H. Holzheimer of Tampa, Florida
 Kevin Allan Horde of Melbourne, Florida
 Jason H. Howard of Largo, Florida
 *Timothy James Huber of Pembroke Pines, Florida
 Clinton Edward Hull of Pascagoula, Mississippi
 Sarah Elizabeth Iannucci of Coral Springs, Florida
 Naoko Ikeda of Okayama-Shi, Japan
 Karen A. Isaacs of Sunrise, Florida
 Massood Jallali of Davie, Florida

NSU-COM Class of 2003 Graduates

Matthew W. Johnston of Pembroke Pines, Florida
 *Zoila Elizabeth Jorro of Davie, Florida
 Michelle L. Judah of Clearwater, Florida
 Allison Ann Kaplan of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
 **Lisa Songco Kellogg of Richmond Hill, New York
 **Michael Sean Kellogg of Richmond Hill, New York
 *Alberik Keshishian of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
 **Tal Klatchko of Farmington Hills, Michigan
 Patricia Sara Klem of Largo, Florida
 **Raymond R. Knisley of Clearwater, Florida
 Onna Gabriela Konicek of Ponce Inlet, Florida
 *Lawrence Michael Kutz of Holland, Pennsylvania
 Francis Joseph Lacina of Muscleshools, Alabama
 Kumarie Soma Latchman of Miami, Florida
 *Jeffrey David Lebensburger of Davie, Florida
 Steven Hoan Lee of Orlando, Florida
 Susan Carter Lee of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
 Todd Kenneth Letzring of St. Petersburg, Florida
 Jeffrey Tsai-Jui Liou of Houston, Texas
 Steven Chung-Pei Liu of Weston, Florida
 Erik Salgado Lowman of Hollywood, Florida
 Rishi N. Mahabir of Pembroke Pines, Florida
 Priya Maharaj of Orlando, Florida
 Laurie Jill Marin of Sharon, Massachusetts
 Carole McLane of Woodbury, Minnesota
 Michael J. McNearney, Jr., of West Palm Beach, Florida
 Robert John Meek of Plantation, Florida
 *Ryan Vincent Messiner of Dunedin, Florida
 Christopher Regar Mickler of Davie, Florida
 Hanriet Minasian-Arakelian of Aventura, Florida
 Neil Miransky of Plantation, Florida
 Michael Salvatore Misuraca of Boynton Beach, Florida
 Kurt L. Morrison of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
 *Keri Lyn Mullen of Fort Myers, Florida
 Krishnamurti S. Munoz of Miami, Florida
 Kasey C. Nelson of Atlanta, Georgia
 Cara Roseanne Nelson-James of Sunrise, Florida
 Shawn Harry Obi of Jacksonville, Florida
 Michael Vincent Orris of Sunrise, Florida
 Jay Sung Park of Boca Raton, Florida
 Alpa Harshad Patel of Jersey City, New Jersey
 Vincent Matthew Peronti of Apopka, Florida
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 Luther Roswell Wiest of Millersburg, Pennsylvania
 Paul John Wisniewski of Largo, Florida
 Finbar F. Woitalla of West Palm Beach, Florida
 Tae In Yu of Davie, Florida

*Graduated with honors

** Graduated with highest honors

Bold - earned dual D.O./M.PH. degree

Italics - earned dual D.O./M.B.A. degree



NSU-COM had the largest student constituency in attendance at the ACOFP 40th Annual Convention and Exhibition last March.

Student Organization of the Month

American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians

*By Scott Colton
Director of Education Communications*

During her time as president of the NSU-COM student chapter of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP), Sarah Newburn has experienced the satisfaction that comes from watching action morph into accomplishment.

"Our main emphasis is to promote the osteopathic profession, especially the family medicine aspect," said Newburn, an M-2 student who also represents NSU-COM's interests at the Florida Society of ACOFP quarterly meetings. "That's why I feel one of our greatest

achievements occurred last October when we coordinated an osteopathic day of awareness to commemorate National Osteopathic Awareness Week, with the help of Dr. Ronnie Martin who chairs the Department of Family Medicine."

In past years, the society limited its educational outreach efforts to the five additional colleges comprising NSU's Health Professions Division. In the fall of 2002, the ACOFP expanded that philosophy to include other centers and colleges housed on the NSU campus.

Throughout the daylong educational excursion, teams of first- and second-year medical students as well as various faculty members gave informative lectures on osteopathic medicine at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, the Center for Psychological Studies, the Shepard Broad Law Center, and Nova High School.

During these informal lectures, the history and philosophy of osteopathic medicine were emphasized, as well as the differences between osteopathic and allopathic medicine. "Many people on campus have no idea the College of Osteopathic Medicine even exists, so it was a great opportunity for us to get our school's name out there and for people to learn about osteopathic medicine," Newburn stated. "It was a very successful event, and we received some extremely positive feedback. Because of the connections we made at the different schools, it will make it easier for the student chapter to coordinate future osteopathic medicine awareness activities at these sites."

Newburn remarked that promoting member involvement in the national as well as the Florida Society of the ACOFP remains a key goal of the student chapter. However, the student chapter of ACOFP—which frequently works in conjunction with other student organizations—is also involved in many community service projects, including interaction with the elderly and underserved communities through health fairs and fundraising efforts.

"In addition to being proud of our osteopathic awareness day campaign, I'm equally as proud of the fact that we were able to have so many students attend the ACOFP 40th Annual Convention and Exhibition last March in Nashville, Tennessee," said Newburn, who served as a voting member at the organization's House of Delegates gathering during the convention. "We brought 36 students, which was the most of any osteopathic college. It was exciting because the majority of our attendees consisted of third- and fourth-year students who participated in the various meetings and scientific lectures."

Newburn credits the Florida Society of the ACOFP for precipitating such an enthusiastic student turnout at



Pictured (from left) are the 2002-2003 ACOFP officers. They are: David Miller (treasurer); Stephanie Boodman (vice president); Deanna Tran (secretary); Sarah Newburn (president); and Erin Kolodziej (national parliamentarian).

the national convention. "The Florida Society of the ACOFP has always been receptive to the students' opinions and needs," she explained. "In fact, they encourage student feedback. They have been very generous with our student chapter, which I think helps to explain why our members showcase such interest and participation."

During the ACOFP Meeting and Convention, two NSU-COM students were elected to the national board—further proof the college's student chapter exhibits an active interest in the osteopathic profession's current and future evolution. "One thing you want to try and do is get national representation on the board, which we were able to accomplish this year with the election of Ann Duskin (M-1) as parliamentarian and Joanna Greenblatt (M-3) as secretary. There are only four slots available on the national board, so we are thrilled to have NSU-COM represented in such a visible way."



Florida Society ACOFP leadership at a recent meeting.

Alumni Corner...Alumni Corner

Alumni Association Executive Committee

2003-2004 Officers

Dr. Glenn Moran, President (1988)
Dr. Kenneth Johnson, President Elect (1991)
Dr. Ronald Renuart, Vice President (1990)
Dr. Steven Cimerberg, Secretary (1987)
Dr. Gregory James, Treasurer (1988)
Dr. Jeffrey Grove, Immediate Past President (1990)

Past Presidents

Dr. John Geake (1993)
Dr. Tamer Gozleveli (1987)
Dr. Michael Gervasi (1987)
Dr. Orlando Garcia (1994)
Dr. Daniel McBath (1990)
Dr. Isidro Pujol (1994)

Trustees at Large

Dr. Raimundo Pastor (1993)
Dr. Ronald Tolchin (1989)

Living Tribute Honorees

2002 - Mary Smith Allegro
2003 - Dr. Arthur Snyder

Committee Chairmen

Dr. Kenneth Johnson – Program Chair
Dr. Daniel McBath – Fundraising Chair
Dr. Tamer Gozleveli – Webmaster
Dr. Michael Gervasi – Editor

Alumni Web Page

<http://medicine.nova.edu>

Join the NSU-COM Listserv

(listserv@list.nova.edu or

nsucom_alumni@list.nova.edu)

You may also access Listserv at the alumni Web page by clicking on the “Join Our Listserv” link.

NSU Celebration of Excellence Distinguished Alumni Honorees

1998 – Dr. Archie H. McLean (1988)
1999 – Dr. James Turner (1988)
2000 – Dr. Daniel McBath (1990)
2001 – not held
2002 – Dr. Joel Rush (1987)

The Executive Committee of the NSU-COM Alumni Association, at the suggestion of President Glenn Moran, D.O., FACOFP, would like to create an alumni speakers list. It has been noted at previous alumni reunion CME programs that we have a diverse and distinguished graduate network that possesses the ability to speak on a range of topics. We are constantly searching for additional speakers for our future events. If you present educational lectures, please send in your CV and the subject matter you speak on to Dr. Moran in care of Dr. Howard L. Neer, NSU-COM Office of Alumni Affairs, 3200 South University Drive, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328.



Susan Yahia, D.O.

In the spring 2003 issue of *COM Outlook*, we reported that 1991 alumnae Susan Yahia, D.O., had been named president of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners. In actuality, Dr. Yahia was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to chair the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

Ronald Renuart, D.O., a 1990 alumnus who serves as vice president of the college's Alumni Association Executive Committee, was featured in the May 7 issue of *The Herald* newspaper in an article spotlighting the efforts of a 70-member Florida National Guard medical unit based in the Kuwait region of Iraq. Dr. Renuart, who was shipped to Kuwait in April with approximately 2,000 other Florida National Guard members, has been treating soldiers for everything from battle injuries and training accidents to a common respiratory disease known as “Kuwaiti Gunk.”

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fundraising effort to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students and produce a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee. If you would like to learn more about the Alumni Association Fund, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029. Following are the altruistic individuals who have contributed to NSU-COM's Alumni Association Fund since its inception:

2003 Donors

Dean's Council (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

\$1,000 Contributors

Dr. Stanley Zimmerman

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

*Dr. Jeffrey Grove

*Drs. Kenneth and Michelle Johnson

*Lorraine Snyder

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

*Louise Todaro

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

*Dr. Richard Appleby

*Dr. Maria Catalano

*Dr. Charles Chase

Dr. Tyler Cymet

*Harriet Deissler

*Dr. John Geake

Dr. Michael Gervasi

*Dr. Robert Klein

*Dr. Arnold Melnick

*Dr. Colene Stout

*Dr. Richard Wolonick

Friends (up to \$99)

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*Dr. Francine Carattini-Eley

*Dr. and Mrs. John Fischer

*Dr. Leslie Kram Greco

*Dr. Donna Jacobsen

*Alfred and Beatrice Karg

Patricia Kennedy

*Dr. Mark A. Kucker

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*William E. Osborn, III

*Dr. Steven Reeves

*Gary N. Rosenberg

*Annette M. Wilder

**Contribution made in honor of 2003 Living Tribute
Award winner Arthur Snyder, D.O.*

Cumulative List of Donors (1999-2003)

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(represents donors that have made a significant deferred gift to the college via life insurance policies, insurances, or trusts.)

Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Grove

(Gift: \$500,000 life insurance policy)

Dean's Council (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

\$3,000 Contributors

Dr. John Geake (1993)

Dr. Jeffrey Grove (1990)

\$2,000 Contributors

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli (1987)

\$1,500 Contributors

Dr. Robert Klein

Dr. Joel Rush

Dr. Stanley Zimmerman

\$1,000 Contributors

Dr. Gregory James

Drs. Kenneth and Michelle Johnson

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Paul Bates

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Dr. John Gordon

Dr. Isidro Pujol

Dr. Robert Sammartino

Dr. Gregory Serfer

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250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Dr. Edgar Bolton

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Dr. Armando L. Hassun, Jr.

NSU-COM Class of 1994

Dr. Nelson Onaro

Dr. John Potomski

Louise Todaro

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Richard Appleby
 Drs. Seth and Mary Baker
 Dr. Michael Baron
 Dr. Shaughn Bennett
 Dr. Kenneth Bresky
 George Campbell
 Dr. Maria Catalano
 Dr. Charles Chase
 Charles Chodorow
 Dr. Robert Darrel Collins
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Friends (up to \$99)

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 Dr. John Allred
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Alumni Spotlight - Class of 1993

Richard John Presutti, D.O.



The Presutti family, featuring (clockwise from top): Richard John, Dora, Rachel, and Nicole.

“Like father, like son” is certainly a phrase that applies to Richard John Presutti, D.O., a class of 1993 alumnus who emulated his father to become a renowned and

respected physician. As a child growing up in a small town in Tennessee, Dr. Presutti was deeply influenced by his father, who was a beloved family physician. As a result, Dr. Presutti intrinsically developed a desire to follow in his father’s footsteps.

After graduating from Vanderbilt University with a B.S. degree in biomedical engineering in 1987, Dr. Presutti began his osteopathic journey by matriculating at and graduating from NSU-COM in 1993. That accomplishment was followed by a productive postgraduate education that included a one-year internship at Sun Coast Hospital in Largo, Florida. However, before he performed his residency, Dr. Presutti elected to spend a year working in his father’s Tennessee-based practice before completing a two-year AOA-approved family medicine residency at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida in 1997.

Like everything he does, Dr. Presutti’s subsequent career at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville has been characterized by esteem and achievement. Not content to hold down just one position, Dr. Presutti currently retains four titles in the Mayo institutional system:

- Assistant Professor of Family Medicine
- Consultant, Department of Family Medicine
- Associate Dean of Continuing Medical Education
- Associate Medical Director, Contracting and Payor Relations, Mayo Foundation

Dr. Presutti, who is certified by the American Board of Family Practice and the American Board of Osteopathic Family Practitioners, spends much of his time seeing

patients, providing lectures to interns, residents, and students, and mentoring them in the clinic and hospital. He also devotes significant attention to his role as associate medical director of contracting and payor relations. All Mayo Clinic insurance contracts include an administrator to manage the business functions and a physician to oversee continuity of patient care. Since these functions tend to blend, Dr. Presutti has become extremely knowledgeable in the area of providing quality care in a managed care setting.

His innumerable contributions to the organization also include oversight of the development of a health and wellness program for Mayo Clinic Jacksonville employees and serving as assistant professor of Mayo Medical School in Rochester, Minnesota. For his efforts, Dr. Presutti was named Mayo’s Teacher of the Year in Jacksonville in 1997 and was voted Outstanding Course Director in 2001.

Prior to assuming his current positions at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Dr. Presutti served from 1997-99 as an associate program director of the family medicine residency at Mayo, where he developed a practice management curriculum, family medicine board review, family medicine core lecture series, and other important educational functions.

Although his career consumes much of his time and energy, Dr. Presutti is a committed family man to Dora, his wife of 14 years, and their two lovely daughters—five-year-old Rachel and eight-year-old Nicole. Dr. Presutti, who holds an advanced standing in the American College of Physician Executives and a certificate of added qualification in geriatrics, also indulges his passion for biking and carpentry when time permits. However, because of professional and personal obligations, Dr. Presutti no longer has time to participate in one of his favorite hobbies—restoring antique automobiles.

“I knew Dr. Presutti would be successful in any endeavor he chose to pursue,” said Howard Neer, D.O., FACOF, professor and associate dean of alumni affairs. “It will be very interesting to follow his career as it matures, and I know we here at NSU-COM will continue to be proud of his accomplishments.”

NSU Leadership Applauds Graduates



On May 23, university administration gathered at the Signature Grand in Davie to salute the achievements of the class of 2003 at the Senior Awards Dinner Dance. Pictured (standing from left) are: Fred Lippman, R.Ph. Ed.D., executive vice chancellor and provost, Health Professions Division; Jay Tischenkel, R.Ph., director, institutional advancement, Health Professions Division; NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.; Geraldine Terry; and Sheila Tischenkel. Seated are Morton Terry, D.O., chancellor, Health Professions Division, and Judy Lippman.

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